

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR A DISTRIBUTED WEB COMMERCE
SYSTEM**

5

A method, apparatus, and computer implemented instructions for processing commercial transactions of a user over a large geographic area. The system for processing commercial transactions includes a network, and one or more primary computing nodes connected to the network and a plurality of secondary computing nodes connected to the network in which each of the plurality of secondary computing nodes being associated with one of the plurality of geographic sites. The system also includes product inventories in which the product inventories are associated with one of the geographic sites. A catalog of products identifying the product inventories is present.

10 One or more primary computing nodes notifies the secondary computing nodes of the catalog. A user contacts a first node from the plurality of secondary computing nodes. The user may purchase or place a product order with the first node with the "first node" forwarding the order to one or more primary computing nodes. The order is executed or completed at one or more primary computing nodes. The one or more primary computing

15 nodes notifies the secondary computing nodes of the catalog, and updates to the catalog. The primary and secondary computing nodes exchange necessary information on shopping cart data, user information, and personalization information.

20

09859705-051701